

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 333

Topic: Staff departures from ASIC

Hansard Page: Written

Senator EGGLESTON asked:

- There have been a number of departures of Senior Executives from ASIC who had been employed for less than three years.
 - o Were any of the Executives the subject of allegations of bullying? (The number is important, they don't need to be named)

Does ASIC have a problem of a culture of bullying? If so what is being done to address this serious issue?

Answer:

The status regarding any SES who has left ASIC is confidential.

ASIC does not have a problem with or a culture of bullying.

In the latest published comparison against APS wide data (the 2008-2009 State of the Service Report), ASIC was one of three large agencies which reported no Code of Conduct investigations for that year. Another six large APS agencies reported fewer than 2 investigations per 1,000 employees, and two large agencies reported more than 10 investigations per 1,000 employees.

In the same comparison period, four percent (4%) of ASIC staff reported that they had witnessed another employee engaging in behaviour they believed to be a serious breach of the Code, compared to an APS wide average of 10% (State of the Service Employee Survey Results 2008-2009).

ASIC has a number of risk mitigation strategies in place, including a Harassment Policy and a Workplace Diversity Policy, and a national Harassment Contact Officers network to provide information and support to staff members who believe they are experiencing discrimination or harassment. In addition, induction programs for all new staff include information about the APS Values and the APS Code of Conduct and harassment and discrimination.

ENDS